

Remarks

This amendment is responsive to the Office communication mailed October 20, 2005.

Claim 30 has been amended so as to correctly depend on claim 20.

Claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended to recite that each of the browser components (212, 214, 216) on the server side is operable to retrieve data from a corresponding one of the databases “and to generate a browser-specific portion of a display presenting said data to said requester”. They have also been amended to recite that a hypertext client request specifying data contained in one of the databases is directed to the corresponding browser component to permit that browser component to retrieve the data specified in the request “and generate said browser-specific portion of a display presenting said data to said requester”.

This amendment finds support in, for example, Fig. 8, which shows a browser display section 806 of the overall layout 800 with the content of the browser currently in action. This browser display section 806 is a discrete portion of the overall layout 800 that is “painted” by the particular browser component 212, 214 or 216, as shown in Fig. 4 for the Interface Repository (IR) browser 212. Such display section 806 may be tailored to the requirements of a particular database; there is no need, for example, to conform to a common query or results format.

With this amendment, claims 1, 12 and 20 are believed to distinguish clearly over the art newly cited by the Examiner, especially Miller et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0059728 (“Miller”). Miller describes a method and system for retrieving search results from “multiple disparate” databases. As shown in Fig. 1, in the server system 10 a “control engine” 14 responsive to search requests received over a user interface 12 forwards search information extracted from the user requests to one or more translators 16a-16f coupled to individual databases 18a-18f. The control engine 14 consolidates search results received back from the translators and formats them, for example as an HTML page (¶ 32).

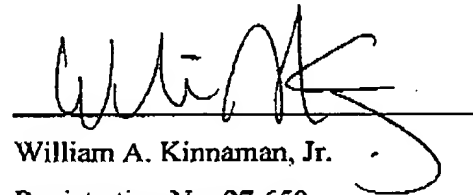
Miller thus serves primarily as a tool for interfacing between a user and a multiplicity of search databases, each of which may have a different search format and logon procedure. While his control engine 14 offloads search requests to the various translators 16, these translators do not "generate a browser-specific portion of a display" presenting requested data to a requester, as claimed by applicant. Rather, these translators return the underlying data from the various databases. As shown in Figs. 3-4 of the application, Miller displays this data in a common format determined by the control engine 14. Miller's system is thus the very antithesis of applicant's claimed system, in which the browser-specific display portion may vary arbitrarily between browser components.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 12 and 20 as amended and the remaining claims, which are dependent thereon, are believed to distinguish patentably over the art cited by the Examiner.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. It is hoped that upon such consideration, the Examiner will hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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